New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N.B. Human Rights Commission

Fredericton to host national human rights conference in June (06/03/21)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Fredericton will be the site of a national human rights conference June 14-16, when the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and the Atlantic Human Rights Centre will host the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA).

"As Minister responsible for the Human Rights Commission, I look forward to welcoming human rights professionals and stakeholders, not only from across Canada, but also from the United States and from as far away as New Zealand to this important event," said Jody Carr, who is also minister of post-secondary education and training. "Many people will be coming to New Brunswick for the first time, and this is an opportunity to showcase the province to the rest of Canada and the world."

The conference will be of interest to everyone who is concerned with human rights, and will be of particular interest to human rights professionals, employers, unions, human-resource professionals, lawyers, advocacy groups and academics.

Four major themes will be covered by the program:

- accommodating people with a disability;
- balancing security and human rights: immigration and multiculturalism
- the Acadian story: accomplishments and challenges; and
- the legacy of John Peters Humphrey.

In addition, a number of sessions at the conference will focus on best practices for ensuring equitable and timely resolution of human rights complaints.

"We are very pleased that our keynote speakers will include Senator Roméo Dallaire and Gwynne Dyer, well-known author," said Gordon Porter, chair of the Human Rights Commission. "In addition, a number of other keynote speakers, as well as panelists in a total of 12 workshops, will address the important themes of the conference."

"During the conference we will honour John Peters Humphrey, the New Brunswicker who wrote the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Michael McGowan, director of the Atlantic Human Rights Centre (AHRC) at St. Thomas University. "Humphrey was director of the United Nations' Division for Human Rights for many years, and was a founder of Amnesty International Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation."

People with an interest in the workplace accommodation of persons with a disability will also want to attend a pre-conference workshop on June 14. This one-day session will feature speakers, case analyses and discussion of recent legal developments. Leaders of the workshop will include representatives of the legal community and of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

Information on the conference and the pre-conference workshop can be found by visiting the CASHRA website at www.cashra.ca; by contacting the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission at 506-453-2301, toll-free at 1-888-471-2233, or by visiting its website at http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm; and by visiting the conference website at http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/conference/index.html. For more information about the AHRC, visit its website at http://www.stu.ca/~ahrc/.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Francis Young, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 506-453-2308, or 1-888-471-2233.

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